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REPLY UNDER  
37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
EXAMINING GROUP 2613

Appl No: 09/545,172  
Attorney Docket: 1163-0268P

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: KURODA, et al. Conf.: 9554  
Appl No: 09/545,172 Art Unit: 2613  
Filed: April 6, 2000 Examiner: Allen C. WONG  
For: IMAGE ENCODING DEVICE AND IMAGE DECODING DEVICE

**REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116**

**MS AF**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

September 30, 2004

Sir:

In reply to the Examiner's Final Office Action dated June 30, 2004, the following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application as follows:

- Listing of the claims beginning on page 2; and
- Remarks/Arguments beginning on page 20.